

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 18, 2007. Claims 1-6 are cancelled, claims 9, 13, and 16 are amended, and claims 18-34 are added. Claims 7-34 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 1-6 and 13-17. By this amendment, claim 1-6 have been canceled, rendering their rejection moot. Claim 13 has been amended to replace the words “controller,the” with “controller, the” as requested by the Examiner.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,926,253 (*Nakashima*). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakashima* in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,102,801 (*Bliley*).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited references do not anticipate or render obvious claims 1-6. However, in order to expedite issuance of a patent directed to subject matter found allowable by the examiner, claims 1-6 have been canceled, rendering their rejection moot.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s allowance of claims 7-12 and indication that claims 13-17 would be allowable, subject to overcoming the Examiner’s objection.

The Applicants submit the following comments concerning the Examiner’s statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the claimed invention of claims 7-17 is patentable over the prior art. However, Applicant submits that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular limitation, that makes each of the claims allowable. No single limitation should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicants do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner’s statement in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 28th day of January 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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